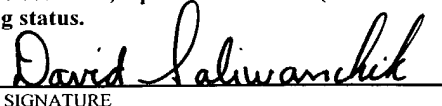


FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER GJE-71	
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>09/868195</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB99/04376		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 22 Dec 1999		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 22 Dec 1998 (see no. 20 below)	
TITLE OF INVENTION Outer Surface Proteins, Their Genes, And Their Use					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Martin John Glenton Hughes, Joseph David Santangelo, Jonathan Douglas Lane, Robert Feldman, Joanne Christine Moore, Richard James Dobson, Paul Everest, Joanne Henwood, Gordon Dougan, Rebecca Kerry Wilson					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)), <u>unsigned</u> . 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).					
<b>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b>					
11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821 - 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:					
Priority dates: 22 December 1998; 20 January 1999; 12 April 1999; 24 May 1999; and 23 September 1999.					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) <b>09/868195</b> INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB99/04376		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER GJE-71					
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO..... <b>\$1000.00</b> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$860.00</b> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... <b>\$710.00</b> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$690.00</b> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$100.00</b> <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>		<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>          <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; text-align: right;">\$860.00</td> <td style="width:50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		\$860.00		\$0.00	
\$860.00							
\$0.00							
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		\$0.00					
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE				
Total claims	[19] - 20 =	[ ]	x \$18.00				
Independent claims	[9] - 3 =	[6]	x \$80.00				
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00				
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>			<b>\$1,340.00</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.			+ \$0.00				
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>			<b>\$1,340.00</b>				
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).			\$0.00				
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>			<b>\$1,340.00</b>				
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +			\$0.00				
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>			<b>\$1,340.00</b>				
			Amount to be refunded: \$				
			charged: \$				
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>19-0065</u> in the amount of \$ <u>1,340.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>19-0065</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. <b>Credit card</b> <b>information should not be included on this form.</b> Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.							
<b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b>							
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:							
CUSTOMER NUMBER <b>23,557</b>		June 15, 2001 DATE					
		SIGNATURE  David R. Saliwanchik					
		NAME <b>31,794</b>					
		REGISTRATION NUMBER					

09/868195

09/868195

JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTC 15 JUN 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Patent Application

June 15, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Martin John Glenton Hughes, Joseph David Santangelo, Jonathan Douglas Lane, Robert Feldman, Joanne Christine Moore, Richard James Dobson, Paul Everest, Caroline Joanne Henwood, Gordon Dougan, Rebecca Kerry Wilson

Docket No. : GJE-71

For : Outer Surface Proteins, Their Genes, And Their Use

Box PCT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification

After page 11: Please insert as new page 12 the attached Abstract of the Disclosure.

In the Claims

The following amendments are made with respect to the claims in international application PCT/GB99/04376. Please cancel claims 1-12 and add the following claims to read as follows:

13. A peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of MS4, MS10, MS11, MS14 and MS16; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

14. The peptide, according to claim 13, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.

15. A polynucleotide wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of MS4, MS10, MS11, MS14 and MS16; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

16. A polynucleotide which encodes a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.

17. A host transformed to express a peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of MS4, MS10, MS11, MS14 and MS16; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

18. The host, according to claim 17, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.

19. A vaccine comprising either 1) a peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of MS4, MS10, MS11, MS14 and MS16; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes; or 2) a means for expressing said peptide.





Remarks

Claims 1-12 have been canceled and new claims 13-31 have been added.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Saliwanchik

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 31,794

Phone No.: 352-375-8100

Fax No.: 352-372-5800

Address: 2421 N.W. 41st Street, Suite A-1  
Gainesville, FL 32606

DRS/la

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure

00/868195

OUTER SURFACE PROTEINS, THEIR GENES, AND THEIR USE

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the identification of outer  
5 surface proteins, their genes, and their use. More  
particularly, it relates to their use in therapy, for  
immunisation and in screening for drugs.

Background to the Invention

Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS), also known as  
10 *Streptococcus agalactiae*, is the causative agent of various  
conditions. In particular, GBS causes:

*Early onset neonatal infection.*

This infection usually begins in utero and causes  
severe septicaemia and pneumonia in infants, which is  
15 lethal if untreated and even with treatment is associated  
with a 10-20% mortality rate.

*Late onset neonatal infection.*

This infection occurs in the period shortly after  
birth until about 3 months of age. It causes a  
20 septicaemia, which is complicated by meningitis in 90% of  
cases. Other focal infections also occur including  
osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, abscesses and  
endophthalmitis.

*Adult infections.*

25 These appear to be increasingly common and occur most  
frequently in women who have just delivered a baby, the  
elderly and the immunocompromised. They are characterised  
by septicaemia and focal infections including  
osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, abscesses and  
30 endophthalmitis.

*Urinary tract infections.*

GBS is a cause of urinary tract infections and in  
pregnancy accounts for about 10% of all infections.

*Veterinary infections.*

35 GBS causes chronic mastitis in cows. This, in turn,  
leads to reduced milk production and is therefore of  
considerable economic importance.





the invention, or the means for its expression, for the treatment of infection.

This vaccine may be administered to females either prior to or during pregnancy to protect mother and neonate  
5 against infection by GBS.

According to another aspect of the invention, the peptides or genes may be used for screening potential antimicrobial drugs or for the detection of virulence.

A further aspect of this invention is the use of any  
10 of the products identified herein, for the treatment or prevention of a condition associated with infection by a Group B *Streptococcal* strain.

Although the protein has been described for use in the treatment of patients, veterinary uses of the products of  
15 the invention are also considered to be within the scope of the present invention. In particular, the peptides or the vaccines may be used in the treatment of chronic mastitis, especially in cows.

#### Description of the Invention

20 The present invention is described with reference to Group B *Streptococcal* strain M732. However, all the GBS strains and many other bacterial strains are likely to include related peptides or proteins having amino acid sequence homology with the peptide of M732. Organisms  
25 likely to contain the peptides include, but are not limited to, *S. pneumoniae*, *S. pyogenes*, *S. suis*, *S. milleri*, Group C and Group G *Streptococci* and *Enterococci*. Vaccines to each of these may be developed in the same way as described for GBS.

30 Preferably, the peptides that may be useful for the production of vaccines have greater than 40% sequence similarity with the peptides identified herein. More preferably, the peptides have greater than 60% sequence similarity. Most preferably, the peptides have greater  
35 than 80% sequence similarity, e.g. 95% similarity.

Having characterised a gene according to the invention, it is possible to use the gene sequence to

establish homologies in other microorganisms. In this way it is possible to determine whether other microorganisms have similar outer surface products. Sequence homologies may be established by searching in existing databases, e.g. EMBL or Genbank.

Peptides or proteins according to the invention may be purified and isolated by methods known in the art. In particular, having identified the gene sequence, it will be possible to use recombinant techniques to express the genes in a suitable host. Active fragments and homologues can be identified and may be useful in therapy. For example, the peptides or their active fragments may be used as antigenic determinants in a vaccine, to elicit an immune response. They may also be used in the preparation of antibodies, for passive immunisation, or diagnostic applications. Suitable antibodies include monoclonal antibodies, or fragments thereof, including single chain fv fragments. Methods for the preparation of antibodies will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

The preparation of vaccines based on attenuated microorganisms is known to those skilled in the art. Vaccine compositions can be formulated with suitable carriers or adjuvants, e.g. alum, as necessary or desired, and used in therapy, to provide effective immunisation against Group B *Streptococci* or other related microorganisms. The preparation of vaccine formulations will be apparent to the skilled person.

More generally, and as is well known to those skilled in the art, a suitable amount of an active component of the invention can be selected, for therapeutic use, as can suitable carriers or excipients, and routes of administration. These factors will be chosen or determined according to known criteria such as the nature/severity of the condition to be treated, the type or health of the subject etc.

The products of the present invention were identified as follows:

Todd-Hewitt broth was inoculated with GBS and allowed to grow overnight at 37°C. The cells were harvested by centrifugation and washed with Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS). The cells were resuspended in an osmotic buffer (20% (w/v) Sucrose, 20mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0, 10mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>) containing protease inhibitors (1 mM PMSF, 10 µM Iodoacetic Acid, 10 mM 1,10-Phenanthroline, 1 µM Pepstatin A) and Mutanolysin at a final concentration of 4 Units per microlitre. This was incubated (shaking) at 37°C for 2 hours.

Cells and debris were removed first by high speed centrifugation, then ultra-centrifugation for 1 hour. The resultant supernatant containing cell wall proteins was concentrated under pressure using an ultrafiltration device (10,000 molecular weight cut-off).

The sample was dialysed against ultra high quality water and lyophilised. After resuspension in loading buffer, the proteins were separated by preparative 2-Dimensional-Gel Electrophoresis. Following electrophoresis an individual spot was chosen for study. The spot was subjected to in-gel tryptic digestion. The resulting peptides were extracted from the gel and purified using microbore RP-HPLC. Fractions were collected every 45 seconds and a portion of these consistent with the regions of UV absorbance were analysed by Delayed Extraction-Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption-Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry (DE-MALDI-TOF-MS). Peptides not observed in a blank preparation were then subjected to sequencing using Nanospray-MS/MS

Using this peptide sequence information, degenerate oligonucleotides were designed to be used in a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify the DNA segment lying between the peptide sequences identified.

PCR amplification resulted in the production of several polynucleotide fragments, each of which was cloned into the pCR 2.1-TOPO vector (Invitrogen BV, Netherlands) according to manufacturers protocol.

The DNA fragment in each plasmid was identified by sequencing and then used to obtain the full-length gene sequence, as follows.

Using the identified DNA fragment, oligonucleotide  
5 primers were designed for genomic DNA sequencing. These  
primers were designed so as to sequence in an 'outward'  
direction from the obtained sequence. Once read, the  
sequence obtained was checked to see if the 5' and 3'  
termini of the gene had been reached. The presence of  
10 these features was identified by checking against  
homologous sequences, and for the 5' end the presence of an  
AUG start codon (or accepted alternative) preceded by a  
Shine-Dalgarno consensus sequence, and for the 3' end, the  
presence of a translation termination (Stop) codon.

15 Upon identification of the full-length gene, primers  
were designed for amplification of full-length product from  
GBS genomic DNA. Primers used included restriction enzyme  
recognition sites (NcoI at the 5' end and EcoO109I at the 3'  
end) to allow subsequent cloning of the product into the  
20 Lactococcal expression system used.

PCR was carried out using the primers, and the  
products cloned into a pCR 2.1 cloning vector (In  
Vitrogen). Following confirmation of the presence of the  
cloned fragment, the DNA was excised using the restriction  
25 enzymes NcoI and EcoO109I.

The vector into which this fragment was inserted was  
a modified version of pNZ8048 (Kuipers, O. P. et al. (1998)  
J. Biotech 64: 15-21). This vector, harbouring a  
lactococcal origin of replication, a chloramphenicol  
30 resistance marker, an inducible nisin promoter and a  
multicloning site was altered by the replacement of the  
multicloning site with two 10X His tags, flanked on the 5-  
most end with an NcoI site, split in the middle with a  
multicloning site (including an EcoO109I site), and a Stop  
35 (termination) codon at the 3' end of the His tags.

The gene of interest was inserted so that a 10X His  
tag was in the 3' position relative to the coding region.

Following transformation of the recombinant plasmid into *L.lactis* (strain NZ9000 - Kuipers, O. P. et al. (1998) *supra*), a 400 ml liquid culture was set up and translation of the protein was induced by the addition of nisin to the culture. After a 2 hour incubation, the cells were harvested and lysed by bead beating. The resultant lysate was cleared by centrifugation, then passed over a metal affinity (Talon, Clontech) column. The column was washed repeatedly before bound proteins were eluted with Imidazole.

To identify fractions containing the His-tagged recombinant protein, an aliquot from each fraction was analysed by SDS-PAGE, Western blotted and probed with anti-His antibodies.

The recombinant protein obtained was then used to immunise New Zealand white rabbits, with pre-immune sera being harvested prior to immunisation. Following a boost, the rabbits were sacrificed and sera collected. This sera was used in Western blots, ELISA and animal protection models.

Using the sera obtained from the animal studies, immunosorption studies were carried out.

Group B *Streptococcus* was grown in 20ml Todd Hewitt broth (THB) for 8 hours, harvested and resuspended in 5ml PBS. 50 $\mu$ l aliquots of this were used to coat wells in a 96 well plate (Nunc Immuno-Sorb). This was left at 4°C overnight to allow for absorbance of the bacteria onto the plate. Plates were washed twice with PBS, then blocked with 3%BSA in PBS for 1hr at 37°C. Plates were again washed. Serial 10 fold dilutions of the sera were made in PBS and 50 $\mu$ l of these dilutions were added to the wells of the plate, in duplicate. The plate was covered and incubated for 1 hr at 37°C. The plate was washed, then 50 $\mu$ l anti-rabbit alkaline phosphatase conjugated secondary antibody at a concentration of 1:5000 was added to each well. Following incubation at 37°C for an hour, the plate was washed again. 50 $\mu$ l substrate (PNPP) was added to each

Animal protection studies were carried out as  
35 described above. The results are as follows:

Treatment		# pups	# pups surviving at time (hrs)	
			24	48
PBS		15	6	0
5	Pre-Immune	41	18	1
	Test	41	33	14

### Example 2

10 A second plasmid was termed MS11. The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NOS. 3 and 4) were used to search protein databases.

15 Homologues to the GBS MS11 gene product can be identified in *Lactobacillus delbrueckii*, *Thermotoga maritima*, *Clostridium acetobutylicum*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Triticum aestivum* and *Synechocystis PCC6803*.

20 In all cases the homologues are the genes for the protein Phosphoglycerate Kinase (PGK). PGK is a major enzyme in the glycolytic pathway, being involved in the conversion of Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate to Phosphoenolpyruvate. In particular, it is involved in the catalysis of the reaction between Glycerate-1,3-diphosphate and 3-Phospho-Glycerate, releasing a phosphate in the forward reaction.

### Example 3

25 A third plasmid was termed pMS16. The 5' and 3' cloned DNA fragments were sequenced and the nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences for each are shown as SEQ ID NOS. 5 and 6 for the 5' fragment and SEQ ID NOS. 7 and 8 for the 3' fragment.

30 Homologues to the GBS MS16 gene product can be identified in *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Mycoplasma genitalium*.

In all cases the homologues are the genes for the protein Glucose-6-Phosphate Isomerase (GPI).

35 The enzyme Glucose-6-Phosphate Isomerase catalyses the reaction between Glucose-6-phosphate and Fructose-6-Phosphate in both glycolysis (G6P to F6P) and



Homologues to the GBS MS10 gene product can be identified in *Streptococcus mutans*, *Nicotiana plumb*, *Pisum sativum* and *Zea mays*. In all cases the homologues are the genes for the protein Nonphosphorylating, NADP-Dependent Glyceraldehyde-3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (NPGAP-3-DH). NPGAP-3-DH has been reported as being an important means of generating NADPH for biosynthetic reactions in *S. mutans* (as opposed to NAD-specific GAP-3-DH which satisfies the requirements of the glycolytic pathway) (Boyd, D.A., Cvitkovitch, D. G. and Hamilton, I. R 1995 J. Bacteriol. 177: 2622-2727).

CLAIMS

1. A peptide encoded by an operon including any of the genes identified herein as MS4, MS10, MS11, MS14 and MS16, obtainable from Group B *streptococcus*, or a homologue thereof or a functional fragment thereof.  
5
2. A peptide according to claim 1, comprising any of the amino acid sequences identified herein as SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.
3. A peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2, for  
10 therapeutic use.
4. A polynucleotide encoding a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2, for therapeutic use.
5. A host transformed to express a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2.
- 15 6. A vaccine comprising a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2, or the means for its expression.
7. Use of a product according to any of claims 1 to 5, for screening potential drugs or for the detection of virulence.
- 20 8. Use of a product according to any of claims 1 to 5, for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment or prevention of a condition associated with bacterial infection.
9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the infection is a  
25 Group B *streptococcal* infection.
10. Use according to claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the infection is a focal infection.
11. Use according to claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the infection is a urinary tract infection.
- 30 12. An antibody raised against a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2.

Abstract of the Disclosure

According to the present invention, a series of genes are identified in Group B *Streptococcus*, the products of which may be located on the outer surface of the organism. The genes, or functional fragments thereof, may be useful in the preparation of therapeutics, *e.g.* vaccines for the immunization of a patient against microbial infection.



WO 00/37490

PCT/GB99/04376

gtt tta gga cgt atg ttt gat ggt att gaa ttc cgt ggt ttt agc caa	336
Val Leu Gly Arg Met Phe Asp Gly Ile Glu Phe Arg Gly Phe Ser Gln	
100 105 110	
aga atg gtt gaa gag ctt gct gaa ttt tct gga gta cct gtc tgg aat	384
Arg Met Val Glu Glu Leu Ala Glu Phe Ser Gly Val Pro Val Trp Asn	
115 120 125	
ggg tta aca gat gaa tgg cat cca aca caa atg cta gct gac tac ctt	432
Gly Leu Thr Asp Glu Trp His Pro Thr Gln Met Leu Ala Asp Tyr Leu	
130 135 140	
act atc aaa gaa aac ttc ggt aaa ctt gaa ggt att act ctt gtt tac	480
Thr Ile Lys Glu Asn Phe Gly Lys Leu Glu Gly Ile Thr Leu Val Tyr	
145 150 155 160	
tgt ggt gac gga cgt aac aat gtt gcc aac tcg ctt tta gtg gct ggg	528
Cys Gly Asp Gly Arg Asn Asn Val Ala Asn Ser Leu Leu Val Ala Gly	
165 170 175	
act ttg atg ggg gtc aat gta cac atc ttt tct cca aaa gaa ctt tty	576
Thr Leu Met Gly Val Asn Val His Ile Phe Ser Pro Lys Glu Leu Phe	
180 185 190	
ccw gct gaa gag att gtt aaa ttg gct gaa gga tat gcc aaa gaa tct	624
Xaa Ala Glu Glu Ile Val Lys Leu Ala Glu Gly Tyr Ala Lys Glu Ser	
195 200 205	
ggg gct cac gtt ctc gtt act gat aat gta gac gaa gct gta aag gga	672
Gly Ala His Val Leu Val Thr Asp Asn Val Asp Glu Ala Val Lys Gly	
210 215 220	
gca gac gtc ttt tac act gat gtc tgg gta tcg atg gga gaa gaa gat	720
Ala Asp Val Phe Tyr Thr Asp Val Trp Val Ser Met Gly Glu Glu Asp	
225 230 235 240	
aag ttc aaa gaa cgc gtt gaa ctt ctt caa cca tat caa gta aac atg	768
Lys Phe Lys Glu Arg Val Glu Leu Leu Gln Pro Tyr Gln Val Asn Met	
245 250 255	
gaa ctg att aaa aaa gct aat aat gat aat ctt atc ttc tta cac tgc	816
Glu Leu Ile Lys Lys Ala Asn Asn Asp Asn Leu Ile Phe Leu His Cys	
260 265 270	
tta cct gca ttc cat gat aca aat acc gtt tat ggc aaa gac gtc gct	864
Leu Pro Ala Phe His Asp Thr Asn Thr Val Tyr Gly Lys Asp Val Ala	
275 280 285	

WO 00/37490

PCT/GB99/04376

gaa aaa ttt ggg gtc aag gaa atg gaa gtt act gat gaa gtc ttc cgt 912  
 Glu Lys Phe Gly Val Lys Glu Met Glu Val Thr Asp Glu Val Phe Arg  
 290 295 300

agc aaa tat gct cgt cat ttc gac caa gct gaa aat cgt atg cac act 960  
 Ser Lys Tyr Ala Arg His Phe Asp Gln Ala Glu Asn Arg Met His Thr  
 305 310 315 320

att aaa gct gta atg gct gca acc ctt gga aat ctt ttc att cca aaa 1008  
 Ile Lys Ala Val Met Ala Ala Thr Leu Gly Asn Leu Phe Ile Pro Lys  
 325 330 335

gtt taa 1014  
 Val

<210> 2

<211> 337

<212> PRT

<213> group B streptococcus

<400> 2

Met Thr Gln Val Phe Gln Gly Arg Ser Phe Leu Ala Glu Lys Asp Phe  
 1 5 10 15

Ser Arg Glu Glu Phe Glu Tyr Leu Ile Asp Phe Ser Ala His Leu Lys  
 20 25 30

Asp Leu Lys Lys Arg Gly Val Pro His His Tyr Leu Glu Gly Lys Asn  
 35 40 45

Ile Ala Leu Leu Phe Glu Lys Thr Ser Thr Arg Thr Arg Ala Ala Phe  
 50 55 60

Thr Thr Ala Ala Ile Asp Leu Gly Ala His Pro Glu Tyr Leu Gly Ala  
 65 70 75 80

Asn Asp Ile Gln Leu Gly Lys Lys Glu Ser Thr Glu Asp Thr Ala Lys  
 85 90 95

Val Leu Gly Arg Met Phe Asp Gly Ile Glu Phe Arg Gly Phe Ser Gln  
 100 105 110

Arg Met Val Glu Glu Leu Ala Glu Phe Ser Gly Val Pro Val Trp Asn  
 115 120 125

Gly Leu Thr Asp Glu Trp His Pro Thr Gln Met Leu Ala Asp Tyr Leu

```
<210> 3
<211> 1197
<212> DNA
<213> group B streptococcus
<220>
```





WO 00/37490

PCT/GB99/04376

ctt ctt gaa aac gaa att gct tac atc caa gaa gca gtt gaa act cca	576
Leu Leu Glu Asn Glu Ile Ala Tyr Ile Gln Glu Ala Val Glu Thr Pro	
180 185 190	
gaa cgc cca ttc gta gct att ctt ggt ggc tca aaa gtt tct gat aag	624
Glu Arg Pro Phe Val Ala Ile Leu Gly Gly Ser Lys Val Ser Asp Lys	
195 200 205	
att ggt gtt atc gaa aac ctt ctt gaa aaa gct gat aaa gtt ctt atc	672
Ile Gly Val Ile Glu Asn Leu Leu Glu Lys Ala Asp Lys Val Leu Ile	
210 215 220	
ggt ggt ggt atg act tac aca ttc tac aaa gct caa ggt atc gaa atc	720
Gly Gly Gly Met Thr Tyr Thr Phe Tyr Lys Ala Gln Gly Ile Glu Ile	
225 230 235 240	
ggt aac tca ctt gta gaa gaa gac aaa ttg gat gtt gct aaa gac ctc	768
Gly Asn Ser Leu Val Glu Glu Asp Lys Leu Asp Val Ala Lys Asp Leu	
245 250 255	
ctt gaa aaa tca aac ggt aaa ttg atc ttg cca gtt gac tca aaa gaa	816
Leu Glu Lys Ser Asn Gly Lys Leu Ile Leu Pro Val Asp Ser Lys Glu	
260 265 270	
gca aac gca ttt gct ggt tat act gaa gtt cgc gac act gaa ggt gaa	864
Ala Asn Ala Phe Ala Gly Tyr Thr Glu Val Arg Asp Thr Glu Gly Glu	
275 280 285	
gca gtt tca gaa ggg ttc ctt ggt ctt gac atc ggt cct aaa tca atc	912
Ala Val Ser Glu Gly Phe Leu Gly Leu Asp Ile Gly Pro Lys Ser Ile	
290 295 300	
gct aaa ttt gat gaa gca ctt act ggt gct aaa aca gtt gta tgg aac	960
Ala Lys Phe Asp Glu Ala Leu Thr Gly Ala Lys Thr Val Val Trp Asn	
305 310 315 320	
gga cct atg ggt gtc ttt gaa aac cct gac ttc caa gct ggt aca atc	1008
Gly Pro Met Gly Val Phe Glu Asn Pro Asp Phe Gln Ala Gly Thr Ile	
325 330 335	
ggt gta atg gac gct atc gtt aaa caa cca ggc gtt aaa tca atc atc	1056
Gly Val Met Asp Ala Ile Val Lys Gln Pro Gly Val Lys Ser Ile Ile	
340 345 350	
ggt ggt ggt gat tca gca gca gct gct atc aac ctt ggt cgt gct gac	1104
Gly Gly Gly Asp Ser Ala Ala Ala Ala Ile Asn Leu Gly Arg Ala Asp	
355 360 365	



WO 00/37490

PCT/GB99/04376

Leu Leu Glu Asn Glu Ile Ala Tyr Ile Gln Glu Ala Val Glu Thr Pro  
180 185 190

Glu Arg Pro Phe Val Ala Ile Leu Gly Gly Ser Lys Val Ser Asp Lys  
195 200 205

Ile Gly Val Ile Glu Asn Leu Leu Glu Lys Ala Asp Lys Val Leu Ile  
210 215 220

Gly Gly Gly Met Thr Tyr Thr Phe Tyr Lys Ala Gln Gly Ile Glu Ile  
225 230 235 240

Gly Asn Ser Leu Val Glu Glu Asp Lys Leu Asp Val Ala Lys Asp Leu  
245 250 255

Leu Glu Lys Ser Asn Gly Lys Leu Ile Leu Pro Val Asp Ser Lys Glu  
260 265 270

Ala Asn Ala Phe Ala Gly Tyr Thr Glu Val Arg Asp Thr Glu Gly Glu  
275 280 285

Ala Val Ser Glu Gly Phe Leu Gly Leu Asp Ile Gly Pro Lys Ser Ile  
290 295 300

Ala Lys Phe Asp Glu Ala Leu Thr Gly Ala Lys Thr Val Val Trp Asn  
305 310 315 320

Gly Pro Met Gly Val Phe Glu Asn Pro Asp Phe Gln Ala Gly Thr Ile  
325 330 335

Gly Val Met Asp Ala Ile Val Lys Gln Pro Gly Val Lys Ser Ile Ile  
340 345 350

Gly Gly Gly Asp Ser Ala Ala Ala Ala Ile Asn Leu Gly Arg Ala Asp  
355 360 365

Lys Phe Ser Trp Ile Ser Thr Gly Gly Gly Ala Ser Met Glu Leu Leu  
370 375 380

Glu Gly Lys Val Leu Pro Gly Leu Ala Ala Leu Thr Glu Lys  
385 390 395

<210> 5

<211> 516

<212> DNA

<213> group B streptococcus



170

<400> 6

10

WO 00/37490

PCT/GB99/04376

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (1)..(318)

<400> 7

att aac cga aga ttt aga tgg tct tgg tta tct tca aga aaa gat gta 48  
Ile Asn Arg Arg Phe Arg Trp Ser Trp Leu Ser Ser Arg Lys Asp Val  
1 5 10 15

gat ttt gtt aat aaa aaa gca aca gat ggt gtg ctt ctt gct cat aca 96  
Asp Phe Val Asn Lys Lys Ala Thr Asp Gly Val Leu Leu Ala His Thr  
20 25 30

gat ggt ggg gtt cca aat atg ttt gta acg ctt cct aca caa gac gct 144  
Asp Gly Gly Val Pro Asn Met Phe Val Thr Leu Pro Thr Gln Asp Ala  
35 40 45

tac act ctt ggt tac act att tac ttc ttt gag tta gca att ggc ctt 192  
Tyr Thr Leu Gly Tyr Thr Ile Tyr Phe Phe Glu Leu Ala Ile Gly Leu  
50 55 60

tca ggt tat ctt aac tca gta aat cca ttt gat caa ccg ggg gta gaa 240  
Ser Gly Tyr Leu Asn Ser Val Asn Pro Phe Asp Gln Pro Gly Val Glu  
65 70 75 80

gca tat aaa cgt aat atg ttc gca ttt ggt aaa cct gga ttc gaa gag 288  
Ala Tyr Lys Arg Asn Met Phe Ala Phe Gly Lys Pro Gly Phe Glu Glu  
85 90 95

ctt agc gct gaa ttg aat gca cgt ctt taa 318  
Leu Ser Ala Glu Leu Asn Ala Arg Leu  
100 105

<210> 8

<211> 105

<212> PRT

<213> group B streptococcus

<400> 8

Ile Asn Arg Arg Phe Arg Trp Ser Trp Leu Ser Ser Arg Lys Asp Val  
1 5 10 15

Asp Phe Val Asn Lys Lys Ala Thr Asp Gly Val Leu Leu Ala His Thr  
20 25 30

Asp Gly Gly Val Pro Asn Met Phe Val Thr Leu Pro Thr Gln Asp Ala

WO 00/37490

PCT/GB99/04376

35 40 45  
Tyr Thr Leu Gly Tyr Thr Ile Tyr Phe Phe Glu Leu Ala Ile Gly Leu  
50 55 60  
Ser Gly Tyr Leu Asn Ser Val Asn Pro Phe Asp Gln Pro Gly Val Glu  
65 70 75 80  
Ala Tyr Lys Arg Asn Met Phe Ala Phe Gly Lys Pro Gly Phe Glu Glu  
85 90 95  
Leu Ser Ala Glu Leu Asn Ala Arg Leu  
100 105

<210> 9  
<211> 804  
<212> DNA  
<213> group B streptococcus

<220>  
<221> CDS  
<222> (1)..(804)

<400> 9  
atg aca tta tta gaa aaa att aat gag act aga gac ttt ttg caa gca 48  
Met Thr Leu Leu Glu Lys Ile Asn Glu Thr Arg Asp Phe Leu Gln Ala  
1 5 10 15  
aaa ggc gtc aca gca cca gaa ttt ggy ctt att tta ggc tct ggt tta 96  
Lys Gly Val Thr Ala Pro Glu Phe Xaa Leu Ile Leu Gly Ser Gly Leu  
20 25 30  
gga gaa ttg gct gaa gaa atc gaa aat cct att gtt gtg gat tat gca 144  
Gly Glu Leu Ala Glu Glu Ile Glu Asn Pro Ile Val Val Asp Tyr Ala  
35 40 45  
gac atc ccm aat tgg gga cag tca aca gta gtt ggt cat gct gga aaa 192  
Asp Ile Xaa Asn Trp Gly Gln Ser Thr Val Val Gly His Ala Gly Lys  
50 55 60  
ttt agt gta tgg gat tta tca ggc cgt aag gta tta gcg ctt caa ggt 240  
Phe Ser Val Trp Asp Leu Ser Gly Arg Lys Val Leu Ala Leu Gln Gly  
65 70 75 80  
cgt ttt cat ttt tay gaa gdw aat aca atg gaa gtc gtt act ttc cca 288  
Arg Phe His Phe Tyr Glu Xaa Asn Thr Met Glu Val Val Thr Phe Pro





WO 00/37490

PCT/GB99/04376

<211> 268

<212> PRT

<213> group B streptococcus

<400> 10

Met Thr Leu Leu Glu Lys Ile Asn Glu Thr Arg Asp Phe Leu Gln Ala  
1 5 10 15

Lys Gly Val Thr Ala Pro Glu Phe Xaa Leu Ile Leu Gly Ser Gly Leu  
20 25 30

Gly Glu Leu Ala Glu Glu Ile Glu Asn Pro Ile Val Val Asp Tyr Ala  
35 40 45

Asp Ile Xaa Asn Trp Gly Gln Ser Thr Val Val Gly His Ala Gly Lys  
50 55 60

Phe Ser Val Trp Asp Leu Ser Gly Arg Lys Val Leu Ala Leu Gln Gly  
65 70 75 80

Arg Phe His Phe Tyr Glu Xaa Asn Thr Met Glu Val Val Thr Phe Pro  
85 90 95

Val Arg Ile Met Arg Ala Leu Ala Cys His Ser Val Leu Val Thr Asn  
100 105 110

Ala Ala Gly Gly Ile Gly Tyr Gly Pro Gly Thr Leu Met Leu Ile Lys  
115 120 125

Asp His Ile Asn Met Ile Gly Thr Asn Pro Leu Ile Gly Glu Asn Leu  
130 135 140

Glu Glu Phe Gly Pro Arg Phe Pro Asp Met Ser Asp Ala Tyr Thr Ala  
145 150 155 160

Thr Tyr Arg Gln Lys Ala His Gln Ile Ala Glu Asn Asp Ile Lys Leu  
165 170 175

Glu Glu Gly Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Ser Gly Pro Thr Tyr Glu Thr Pro  
180 185 190

Ala Glu Ile Arg Ala Phe Gln Thr Met Gly Ala Gln Ala Val Gly Met  
195 200 205

Ser Thr Val Pro Glu Val Ile Val Ala Ala His Ser Gly Leu Lys Val  
210 215 220

Leu Gly Ile Ser Ala Ile Thr Asn Leu Ala Ala Gly Phe Gln Ser Glu



16

**PCT/GB99/04376**

```
<210> 12
<211> 475
<212> PRT
```

**PCT/GB99/04376**

—

1

2

19